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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| 10/073,475 | 02/11/2002 | Paul A. LaBerge | 37829.0600/Micron 01-353 | 4376 |

7590

07/15/2003

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EXAMINER

HUR, JUNG H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2824

DATE MAILED: 07/15/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/073,475

Applicant(s)

LABERGE, PAUL A.

Examiner

Jung (John) Hur

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 6-8, 13-18 and 24 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 9 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-5, 10-12 and 20-23 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☒ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☒ Other: search history.

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DETAILED ACTION

Pre-Amendment

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's Pre-Amendment, filed 31 May 2002. The changes and remarks disclosed therein were considered.

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application.

Oath/Declaration

2. The oath or declaration is defective. A new oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) identifying this application by application number and filing date is required. See MPEP §§ 602.01 and 602.02.

The oath or declaration is defective because:

It does not identify the mailing or post office address of each inventor. A mailing or post office address is an address at which an inventor customarily receives his or her mail and may be either a home or business address. The mailing or post office address should include the ZIP Code designation. The mailing or post office address may be provided in an application data sheet or a supplemental oath or declaration. See 37 CFR 1.63(c) and 37 CFR 1.76.

Specification

3. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

4. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it uses the phrase “the present invention” in line 1, which is implied. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1, 2, 9 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Taylor (U.S. Pat. No. 5,497,498).

Taylor in Figs. 1A-1D discloses an electronic system having at least two (see, for example, column 4, lines 65-67) memory modules (or memory systems), each memory module and a corresponding method of retrieving configuration information from the memory module, comprising: a random access memory (13) configured to store data; a supplemental information device (12A, 12B) configured to store supplemental information; an interface connection (or a first connection; including 17 and 11) connected to the memory and the supplemental information device and configured to operate in a first mode (or a normal mode; to access 13) and a second mode (or a configuration mode; to access 12A/B), wherein the interface connection: transfers (via 18A, 18C and 18D) information to or from the memory in the first mode; and transfers (via 19A and 19B) information to or from the supplemental information device in the second mode, wherein the supplemental information comprises configuration

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information relating to the memory module (see, for example, column 8, lines 43-44 and column 9, lines 19-21).

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 6-8, 13-18 and 24 are allowed.

8. Claims 3-5, 10-12 and 20-23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

9. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claims 3, 4, 6, 10, 11, 13, 14, 17, 18, 21, 22 and 24, the prior arts of record do not disclose or suggest a memory module wherein a configuration information accessed via a first connection (which is also used for accessing a RAM in normal mode) comprises SPD information or is transferred using SMBus protocols.

Regarding claims 5, 12 and 23, the prior arts of record do not disclose or suggest a memory module wherein only the chip select connection is used to signal the selected module for transferring supplemental information.

Regarding claim 20, the prior arts of record do not disclose or suggest a method wherein the step of requesting configuration information comprises accessing a configuration register associated with the memory system.

Conclusion

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10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Trick (U.S. Pat. No. 5,995,405) discloses a memory module wherein a set of SPD pins are shared by two different EEPROM configurations.

Nguyen et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,055,600) discloses a method and an apparatus wherein SPD clock and data are shared on same pins as parallel presence detect data.

Chang et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,148,398) discloses multi-function pins on a CPU package.


Nizar et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,532,526) discloses a method and an apparatus using SPD and SMBus.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jung (John) Hur whose telephone number is (703) 308-1624.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 6:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Elms can be reached on (703) 308-2816. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9318 for regular communications and (703) 872-9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.


MICHAEL S. LEBENTRITT
PRIMARY EXAMINER

jhh
July 8, 2003